

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :
: *Naoki YAMAMORI et al.* : Atty Docket: 1581/00259
Serial No.: To be assigned : Art Unit: To be assigned
Filed: Herewith : Examiner: To be assigned
For: ANTIFOULING COATING :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned case as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claim 12 without prejudice to its reentry at some later date.

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 wherein the acrylic resin constituting said metal-containing acrylic resin has an acid value of 80 to 300 mg KOH/g and a glass transition temperature of not higher than 5 °C.

4. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 wherein the monobasic acid has an acid value of less than 200 mg KOH/g.

7. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 wherein the monobasic acid has a diterpenoid hydrocarbon skeleton or a salt thereof.

8. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 wherein the monobasic acid is selected from the group consisting of abietic acid, hydrogenated abietic acid and their salts.

9. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 wherein the monobasic acid is selected from the group consisting of rosins, hydrogenated rosins and disproportionated rosins.

10. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 wherein the metal M is copper or zinc.

11. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 wherein the ratio of the monobasic acid to the acrylic resin constituting the metal-containing acrylic resin is 0.9/1.1 to 1.2/0.8 by weight on a nonvolatile matter basis.

Please add the following new claims:

13. (New) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 comprising an additional binder resin in a weight ratio, on a nonvolatile basis, of (metal-containing acrylic resin) / (additional binder resin) = 100/0 to 30/70.

14. (Added) The antifouling coating according to Claim 2 wherein the acrylic resin constituting said metal-containing acrylic resin has an acid value of 80 to 300 mg KOH/g and a glass transition temperature of not higher than 5 °C.

15. (Added) The antifouling coating according to Claim 2 wherein the monobasic acid has an acid value of less than 200 mg KOH/g.

16. (Added) The antifouling coating according to Claim 3 wherein the monobasic acid has an acid value of less than 200 mg KOH/g.

17. (Added) The antifouling coating according to Claim 2 wherein the monobasic acid has a diterpenoid hydrocarbon skeleton or a salt thereof.

18. (Added) The antifouling coating according to Claim 3 wherein the monobasic acid has a diterpenoid hydrocarbon skeleton or a salt thereof.

19. (Added) The antifouling coating according to Claim 4 wherein the monobasic acid has a diterpenoid hydrocarbon skeleton or a salt thereof.

20. (Added) The antifouling coating according to Claim 5 wherein the monobasic acid has a diterpenoid hydrocarbon skeleton or a salt thereof.

21. (Added) The antifouling coating according to Claim 6 wherein the monobasic acid has a diterpenoid hydrocarbon skeleton or a salt thereof.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to improve their format. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX
MARKED-UP CLAIMS

3. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 [or 2] wherein the acrylic resin constituting said metal-containing acrylic resin has an acid value of 80 to 300 mg KOH/g and a glass transition temperature of not higher than 5 °C.
4. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 [or 2 or 3] wherein the monobasic acid has an acid value of less than 200 mg KOH/g.
7. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1 [, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6] wherein the monobasic acid has a diterpenoid hydrocarbon skeleton or a salt thereof.
8. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1[, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7] wherein the monobasic acid is selected from the group consisting of abietic acid, hydrogenated abietic acid and their salts.
9. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1[, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6] wherein the monobasic acid is selected from the group consisting of rosins, hydrogenated rosins and disproportionated rosins.
10. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1[, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8] wherein the metal M is copper or zinc.
11. (Amended) The antifouling coating according to Claim 1[, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10] wherein the ratio of the monobasic acid to the acrylic resin constituting the metal-containing acrylic resin is 0.9/1.1 to 1.2/0.8 by weight on a nonvolatile matter basis.